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Leaflet #9

SUMMER WILD FLOWERS

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This leaflet is the third of a series of Field Museum leaflets illustrating some of the more common or attractive wild flowers of the Chicago region. The two preceding leaflets describe the spring and early summer flowers, and a fourth will illustrate autumn flowers and fruits.

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D. C. DAVIES
DIRECTOR

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LEAFLET NUMBER 9

SUMMER WILD FLOWERS

MILKWEED. SILKWEED

(*Asclepias* species)

The usually milky juice and the silk-filled pods characterize this well-known perennial. The flowers are distinctive, with pentagonal centers surrounded by five hood-like structures each containing an incurved horn. Of many species, none is handsomer than the Butterflyweed with its brilliant orange-red flowers, red stalk and green leaves. The Common Milkweed, much taller and stouter, with purplish flowers, furnishes from its pods the "silk" from which ornaments are made. The Swamp Milkweed is another common variety with many leaves and rose-purple flowers. (Milkweed Family)

ARROW-HEAD
(*Sagittaria* species)

About the muddy edges of streams and in shallow shores the Smooth Arrow-head produces white, yellow-centered flowers all summer long. Usually the leaves are broadly arrow-shaped, borne on long stalks, but sometimes, when the plant grows in deeper water, they are long and narrow. (Water Plantain Family)

PICKEREL-WEED

(*Pontederia cordata*)

The violet-blue flower-spikes of the Pickerel-weed are usually seen massed along the margins of ponds and in marshes. The smooth stout stem bears only one leaf, the other long-stalked heart-shaped leaves being produced directly from the creeping roots.

It is said that the Pickerel is wont to place its eggs at the bases of this shore plant. (Pickerel-weed Family)

LILY

(*Lilium* species)

Only one of our three species of lilies bears its blossoms erect. This is the Wood Lily. Its flowers are reddish orange or deep red, spotted with purplish.

The flowers of the Yellow Lily of moist meadows and bogs are borne nodding on long stalks. They are of a yellow or orange color, usually spotted with brown.

The Turk's Cap Lily is the finest of all. Its stems, reared in rich low grounds to a height of several feet, bear nodding orange flowers that are thickly spotted with purple within. The flower parts are strongly turned back. (Lily Family)

FRINGED ORCHIS
(*Habenaria* species)

The Fringed Orchis, one of our finest native orchids, usually grows in a bog or wet meadow where it raises its slender stem to a height of one or two feet. Near its summit, in a short wand or raceme, are the two-lipped golden or purplish flowers. The lower part or "lip", of the blossom is prominently fringed; often it is also three-parted. The small slender leaves are rather inconspicuous and borne erectly along the stem. (Orchid Family)

CAMPION. CATCHFLY
(*Silene* and *Lychnis* species)

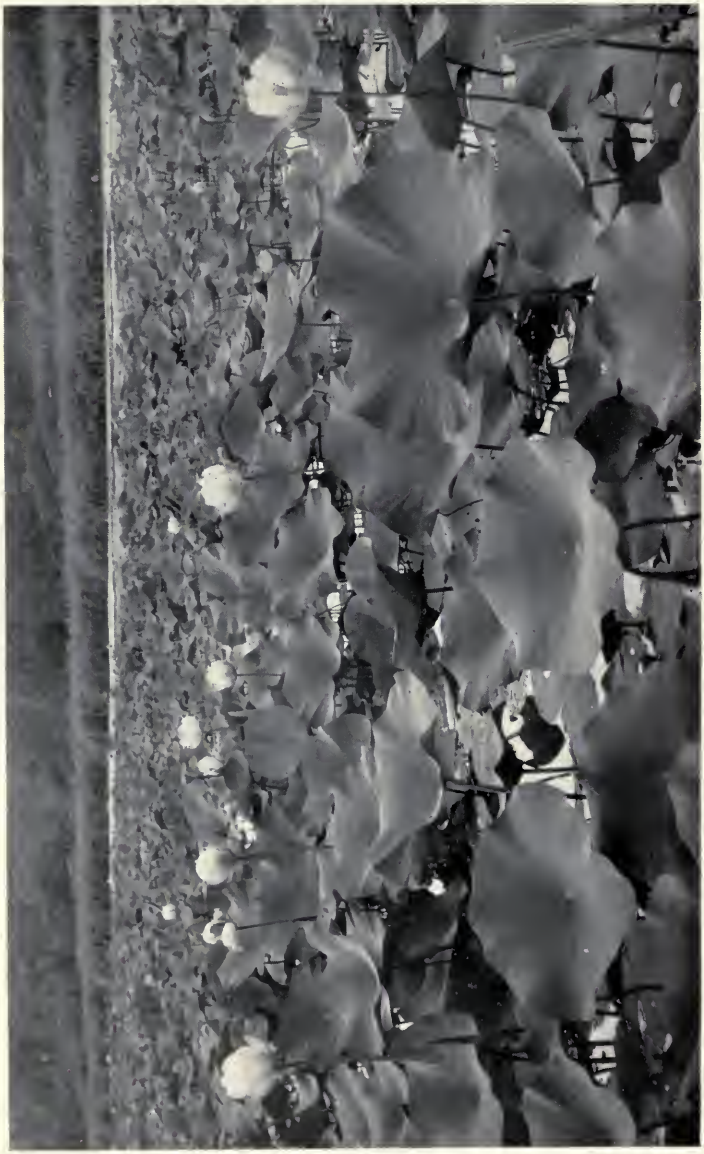
The Campions comprise a group of attractive flowers which includes the Ragged Robin and the Wild Pink, all related to the Carnation. They are slender-stemmed small-leaved plants characterized by a tubular usually inflated or box-like *calyx* from the top of which protrude the slender often cleft or fringed petals. These may be white, pink, or scarlet. The White Starry Campion of woody banks is pictured. (Pink Family)

COW LILY.

BOUNCING BET. SOAPWORT
(*Saponaria officinalis*)

When this stout perennial of roadsides is cultivated its showy rose-colored flowers are commonly double instead of single as shown in the photograph. At the apparent base of each petal, where it enters the tube- or box-like calyx, there is a little fringe.

The juice of this plant forms a soapy lather with water. (Pink Family)



WATER LILIES

(*Nymphaea, Castalia* and *Nelumbo* species)

The most attractive of our Water Lilies is the Sweet Scented Water Nymph of ponds or slow-flowing streams. Its solitary white or pink-tinged flower, that is often five inches across, opens soon after sunrise, and closes during the afternoon. Its round leaves are usually purplish-red beneath.

The Common Cow Lily or Spatter-dock of quiet or stagnant waters may be known by its simple yellow flowers that are produced all summer. Often they are in part purplish-tinged. The Lotus or Water Chinquapin has large yellow flowers and circular leaves usually raised high out of the water. Both the tubers and seeds of this species of Water Lily are edible. (Water Lily Family)

TICK TREFOIL

(*Desmodium* species)

The pea-like flowers of the Showy Tick Trefoil illustrated are purple; the leaves consist of three leaflets borne together at the end of a single stalk; the erect stems are often several feet high. There are many species of Tick Trefoils, all possessing the three-foliate leaves and flat pods, which, deeply lobed along one side, finally separate into several joints or parts. (Pea Family)

JEWELWEED. TOUCH-ME-NOT
(*Impatiens* species)

The succulent Jewelweed growing smooth and rank in wet shady places may be recognized easily by its delicately pendulous flowers. These are somewhat bell-shaped but the closed portion tapers to a recurved hook or spur. The color is pale yellow or orange, more or less dotted with reddish-brown.

The ripe seed-pods open at the slightest touch, throwing their seeds to a distance of several feet. (Touch-me-not-Family)

Courtesy Frank M. Woodruff, Curator, The Chicago Academy of Sciences.

ST. JOHN'S WORT
(*Hypericum* species)

The St. John's Wort is recognized readily by its yellow flowers, their centers filled with tufts of filamentous stamens, and by its dotted leaves. These transparent dots are especially noticeable upon holding a leaf to the light. There are many species, some herbs, some bushes, but none are finer than the Shrubby St. John's Wort shown in the picture. (St. John's Wort Family)

GREAT WILLOW-HERB. FIREWEED
(*Epilobium angustifolium*)

Where a piece of land has been burned over, especially a lowland, or a clearing made, the Fireweed is almost sure to raise its pyramidal raceme of showy purple-red blossoms. These are borne toward the top of a glossy stem that may be six feet high. The leaves are lance-shaped and scattered along the stalk below the flowers. (Evening Primrose Family)

Courtesy Frank M. Woodruff, Curator, The Chicago Academy of Sciences.

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
(*Daucus Carota*)

Doubtless the farmer considers the well-known Queen Anne's Lace a "pernicious weed" of fields and waste places. However, its tall bristly stems with much divided fern-like leaves bear at their summits very pretty flat-topped sprays composed of numerous clusters of tiny white or roseate flowers.

The Water Parsnip of muddy shores is a similar plant with smooth stout stems and coarser leaf-divisions. (Parsley Family)

HEDGE BINDWEED. WILD MORNING GLORY

(*Convolvulus sepium*)

The Morning Glory-like flowers of this vine of hedge-rows, stream-thickets and cornfields are white or rose-tinted; the leaves are triangular or halberd-shaped and are often somewhat toothed near the base.

The twining stems of the Bindweed always turn to the left (opposite to the direction of the hands of a watch). They grow and move very rapidly, observations having shown that they may describe a complete circle in less than two hours. (Morning Glory Family)

VERBENA. BLUE VERVAIN

(*Verbena species*)

Slender spikes of small bright violet-blue flowers borne, candelabra-like, at the top of a straight leafy stem characterize the Blue Vervain. The plants often grow in groups, forming showy patches along roadsides or in pastures. The brilliant Verbena of gardens is a related herb.

The Vervain, as one of the so-called "sacred plants" of ancient times, was supposed to possess many virtues, including the power to offset the influence of witches. (Verbena Family)

FALSE DRAGON HEAD
(*Physostegia virginiana*)

The handsome tubular and two-lipped rose-purple flowers of this tall perennial of wet places are borne in one or several wand-like spikes at the summit of the leafy stem. The numerous, longish leaves are sharply toothed.

The False Dragon Head has the square stems and opposite leaves that characterize all the members of the Mint Family.

WILD BERGAMOT
(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Square stems, oppositely placed leaves and head-like showy clusters of tubular two-lipped flowers serve to identify this vigorous perennial. The slender blossoms are sometimes lilac, sometimes pink, or even crimson. The plants vary from a foot to several feet in height, usually many stems growing together in a clump.

Closely related is the Horse Mint with the flower-heads in the axils of the upper leaves. Its blossoms are yellowish with purple dots. (Mint Family)

COMMON MULLEIN. VELVET PLANT
(*Verbascum Thapsus*)

The tall stout wand-like stem of the woolly leaved Mullein is a familiar sight along pasture fences and in old fields. In some places it bears the rather apt names of Aaron's Rod and Jacob's Staff. The Mullein is an immigrant from Europe, supposed to have come over in ship ballast. (Figwort Family)

BUTTER AND EGGS
(*Linaria vulgaris*)

Originally an introduced garden plant from Europe, the Yellow Toadflax is now common in our fields and roadsides where its orange and yellow flowers, borne in profusion, make colorful patches. Its straight stems, sometimes a foot or more in height, are thickly clothed with numerous narrow leaves. It is said that the acrid juice of this plant, when mixed with milk, makes an excellent fly-poison. (Figwort Family)

Courtesy Frank M. Woodruff, Curator, The Chicago Academy of Sciences.

TURTLEHEAD. SNAKEHEAD. SHELL FLOWER
(*Chelone glabra*)

The names of this plant all refer to the shape of the flower. The tall branching stems, slender leaves, and terminal clusters or spikes of the large white or rose-tinged flowers well mark this smooth perennial of wet places. (Figwort Family)

CULVER'S-ROOT. CULVER'S PHYSIC
(*Veronica virginica*)

The slender tapering white or blue-tinted spikes of this herb of moist woods and meadows are well-known. . It has tall smooth stems and finely toothed leaves that are borne at intervals in whorls of four or seven. (Figwort Family)

Photograph by B. E. Dahlgren.

POISON IVY.

BUTTONBUSH

(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

The heads of white flowers, borne like balls on short stalks, distinguish easily this shrub of swamps and stream banks. Its leaves grow in pairs and in threes at intervals along the smooth stems. The most interesting feature of the Buttonbush is the delightful fragrance of the flowers. These are rather inconspicuous but keep opening from June to Sept. (Coffee Fam.)

BALSAM APPLE. WILD CUCUMBER
(*Echinocystis lobata*)

This vine of river-thickets is well-known in cultivation as an annual shade-plant on arbors and porches. Its small greenish-white flowers are scarcely as ornamental as the nodding inflated egg-shaped pods, covered with weak prickles. The pods finally burst at one end.

The Bur or Star Cucumber is similar but has fewer clustered flowers and small clustered pods that are densely armed with slender spines. (Gourd Family)

BLACK-EYED SUSAN. RUDBECKIA
(Rudbeckia hirta)

The daisy-like flowers of the Rudbeckia or "Yellow Daisy", as it is often called, have dark brown or nearly black raised centers and yellow rays or "petals". They are solitary on the tall (1-3 ft.) bristly-hairy stems. The rather few and narrowish leaves are as rough to the touch as the stalks.

The Black-eyed Susan blooms from June to September and sometimes is a troublesome weed in fields and meadows. It is one of the few plants native to the United States which, carried to Europe with grain, etc., has become established there as a weed. (Daisy Family)

BLAZING STAR. GAYFEATHER
(*Liatris* species)

The tall wand-like stems of this perennial of sunny places produce, to some distance below their tops, feathery rose-purple flowers that suggest little tufts of ragged colored paper. The stem is clothed with numerous slender leaves.

The name "Button Snakeroot" given to this plant refers to the roundish tuber which superstition connects with a cure for rattlesnake bite. (Daisy Family)

MAY-WEED. CHAMOMILE
(*Anthemis Cotula*)

This ill-scented weed of barnyards and roadsides, bearing numerous white daisy-like flowers with yellow centers, is attractive as long as it is not picked. Like the Skunk Cabbage and some red Trilliums it is a plant to be admired where it grows. It is a low annual herb with finely divided leaves and is closely related to the strong-scented Chamomile of old gardens. (Daisy Family)

Courtesy Frank M. Woodruff, Curator, The Chicago Academy of Sciences.

OX-EYE. FALSE SUNFLOWER
(*Heliopsis scabra*)

The Ox-eye, with Sunflower-like blossoms on long stalks, is a rather coarse perennial of sunny dryish soils. Its ovate leaves, roughish to the touch and toothed along the edges are borne in pairs at close intervals along the tall stems. (Daisy Family)

YARROW. MILFOIL
(*Achillea Millefolium*)

This weedy plant of a "thousand leaves" has nearly as many names. Since the days of Troy it has had some association with humanity. At one time its pungently-scented, finely-divided leaves were thought to have a remedial value; again its white or purplish flat-topped clusters of small flowers have been considered as worthy a place in the garden: just now it is usually only a field or roadside weed where it is often such a nuisance that its beauty is rarely recognized. (Daisy Family)

The photographs, unless otherwise credited, are by L. W. Brownell, with the exception of the Fringed Orchis by C. F. Millspaugh, and Vervain, False Dragon Head and Blazing Star by H. H. Smith.

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